



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COLUMBIA WOMAN IS SENTENCED FOR STEALING MORE THAN \$300,000 FROM SC
PROBATION, PARDON AND PAROLE BANK ACCOUNT**

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that a former resident of the Columbia based Restitution Center, Crystal Dawn Bric, age 31, of Camden, was sentenced today by the Honorable Cameron M. Currie to 33 months of imprisonment, ordered to pay \$328,798 in restitution, and to serve five years of supervised release. Ms. Bric pled guilty in June 2011 to one count of bank fraud, for her scheme to steal more than \$300,000 from a Wachovia bank account owned by the South Carolina Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole ("SCDPP").

The facts presented at the plea hearing were that during the year 2007, Crystal Bric was on state probation and was housed at the SC Probation, Pardon and Parole Restitution Center in Columbia, SC. Using a check she received from a Probation Pardon and Parole Wachovia bank account, she obtained the bank account number and routing number. She began using the account number to pay her rent, her utilities, and for cell phones for herself and others. She did this using a telephone and making electronic payments. She also used friends social security numbers to open credit card accounts and then electronically paid for the credit cards using these Wachovia account numbers. The scheme was executed from approximately December 2007 through October 2009. Auditors have concluded that Ms. Bric wrongfully took approx. \$328,798 in state funds from this Wachovia bank account. The investigation revealed that the illegal withdrawals from the bank account went undetected for almost two years because no one in SCDPP was reconciling the account expenditures on a monthly basis.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Secret Service and that it was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Debbie Barbier of the Columbia office.

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